

धन और धरती, शक्ति और बुद्धि का मालिक परमेश्वर है। उनकी बुद्धि का कारण समाज है। हम सब तो उसके सेवक मात्र हैं। हर एक को जितना जरूरी है, उतना ही मिलना चाहिए। मालिकियत का अधिकार किसीको नहीं। भूदान-यज्ञ को यह अन्तिम बात है।

परिवार में जितना हो, उतना बँटकर खा लेते हैं और फिर सब मिलकर उत्पादन बढ़ाते हैं। क्योंकि परिवार जिंदा समाज है। प्रेम ही मनुष्य का प्राण है। हम दूसरों को चिंता करें, दूसरे हमारा चिंता करें। इसीमें सबका आनन्द है। समाज को सुखी बनाने की यही युक्ति है।

लोग समझते हैं कि हर चीज सरकार करेगी। यह बिल्कुल गलत विचार है। गाँववालों में उत्साह उत्पन्न होना चाहिए कि हम अपने गाँव को स्वच्छ, सुन्दर, शुचि, हरा-भरा बनायेंगे। वे स्वयं अपनी जिम्मेवारी महसूस करें। उनमें भावना निर्माण हो कि यह राज्य हमारा है, हम उसके विधाता हैं।

ग्रामदान के लिए एक सबल नैमित्तिक कारण भी उपस्थित हुआ है। आज दुनिया की स्थिति अत्यन्त डरवाडोल है। किसी क्षण भी युद्ध छिड़ सकता है। अगर युद्ध छिड़ जाय, तो पंचवर्षीय योजना खतरे में आ जायगी। मेरे मन में अधीरता क्यों आयी है? इसलिए कि अगर यह काम हम जल्दी करते हैं, तो सब तरह से बच जाते हैं। यदि जल्दी नहीं करते हैं, तो हम अपना काम ही नहीं कर पायेंगे। देश को बचाने के खयाल से गाँव-गाँव में दो साल का अनाज रहना चाहिए। वह तभी रहेगा जब गाँव के लोग एकदिल होकर योजना करेंगे। और, ग्रामदान के बिना ग्राम-योजना नहीं हो सकती। अतः "डिफेंस मेजर" के तौर पर भी ग्रामदान आवश्यक है। —बिनोबा

ग्रामदान में जनता को निम्न बातें स्वयं करनी हैं :

१. जमीन का बँटवारा और खेती में सुधार।
२. ग्रामोद्योग, गो-सेवा, गृह-वाटिका।
३. नयी तालीम।
४. आरोग्य-योजना (सफाई तथा औषधि वगीचा)
५. झगड़ों का पंच-फैसले से निपटारा।

सोलह साल से ऊपर के बी-युवकों की ग्राम-सभा बनायी जाय। फिर विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए अलग-अलग समितियाँ सर्वानुमति से बनें। वे गाँव की सेवा करेंगी। शादी आदि का खर्च गाँव ही उठायेगा। कर्ज की जिम्मेवारी भी गाँव ही लेगा। गाँव में कौन-सा माल आये, यह गाँव ही तय करेगा। ग्राम की ओर से गाँव में एक सहकारी दुकान चलेगी। संक्षेप में गाँव का संयोजन गाँववाले ही करेंगे।

—बिनोबा

यह समाज अनगिनत गाँवों का बना होगा। उसका ढाँचा एक के ऊपर एक के ढंग का मीनार की शकल में नहीं होगा, जहाँ ऊपर की संकुचित चाँटी नीचे के चौड़े पाये पर भार डालकर खड़ी रहे। वहाँ तो जीवन समुद्र की लहरों की तरह एक के बाद एक जैसे घेरे (वृत्त) की शकल में होगा, जिसका केंद्र व्यक्ति होगा। व्यक्ति गाँव के लिए और गाँव ग्राम-समूह के लिए मर मिटने को हनेशा तैयार रहेगा। इस तरह अन्त में सारा समाज ऐसे व्यक्तियों का बन जायगा जो उस समुद्र के गौरव के हिस्सेदार बनेंगे जिसके वे अविभाज्य अंग हैं।

इसलिए सबसे बाहर का घेरा अपनी शक्ति का उपयोग भीतरवालों को कुचलने में नहीं करेगा, बल्कि भीतरवाला सबको ताकत पहुँचायेगा और स्वयं उनसे बल ग्रहण करेगा। कभी भारत के प्रत्येक गाँव में गणतंत्र स्थापित हुआ, तो मेरा दावा है कि मैं इस चित्र की सच्चाई सिद्ध कर सकूँगा।

हरिजन-२८-७-'४६

—गांधीजी

अ० भा० सर्व-सेवा-संघ-प्रकाशन

राजघाट, काशी

ग्रामदान

“विरवं पुष्टं ग्रामे अस्मिन् अनानुरम्”

प्रथम भूदान : पोचमपल्ली (आंध्रप्रदेश)
१८ अप्रैल '५१

प्रथम ग्रामदान : मंगरौठ (उत्तरप्रदेश)
२४ मई '५२

'५६ अंत तक कुल भूदान : ४१,८४२,२४ एकड़।

'५७ के १५ अगस्त तक कुल ग्रामदान : २,७८२

उत्कल प्रदेश के कोरापुट जिले में ग्रामदान : १४००

—“भारत के सच्चे लोकतंत्र में ग्राम ही आधारभूत इकाई होगा। मैं तो कहूँगा यदि ग्राम नष्ट होता है, तो भारत भी नष्ट होकर रहेगा। वह असली भारत नहीं रह जायगा। दुनिया में वह अपना वायित्व नहीं निभा सकेगा।”

—बी० बी० गांधी

“ईशावास्वमिदं सर्वं यत्किंच जगत्यां जगत्”

५

दुनिया में दुःख है, दरिद्रता है, भुखमरी है।
इस सबका उत्तर नहीं मिलता, तो शांति कैसे रहेगी ?
—विनोबा

१८ अप्रैल १९५१ के दिन तेलंगाना के पोचमपल्ली गाँव की सभा में भूमिहीनों की समस्या सुलझाने के लिए सहज भाव से विनोबाजी ने भूमि-वानों से भूमि की माँग की। तत्क्षण १०० एकड़ दान घोषित हुआ और भूदान-यज्ञ की क्रांतिकारी कल्पना का उदय विनोबाजी के मन में हुआ :

“हृदय-परिवर्तन द्वारा यदि विदेशी लोगों से राजनैतिक आजादी ली जा सकती है, तो उसी प्रेममाग से अपने ही देशवासी भाइयों से आर्थिक-सामाजिक स्वतंत्रता क्या हम प्राप्त न कर सकेंगे?”

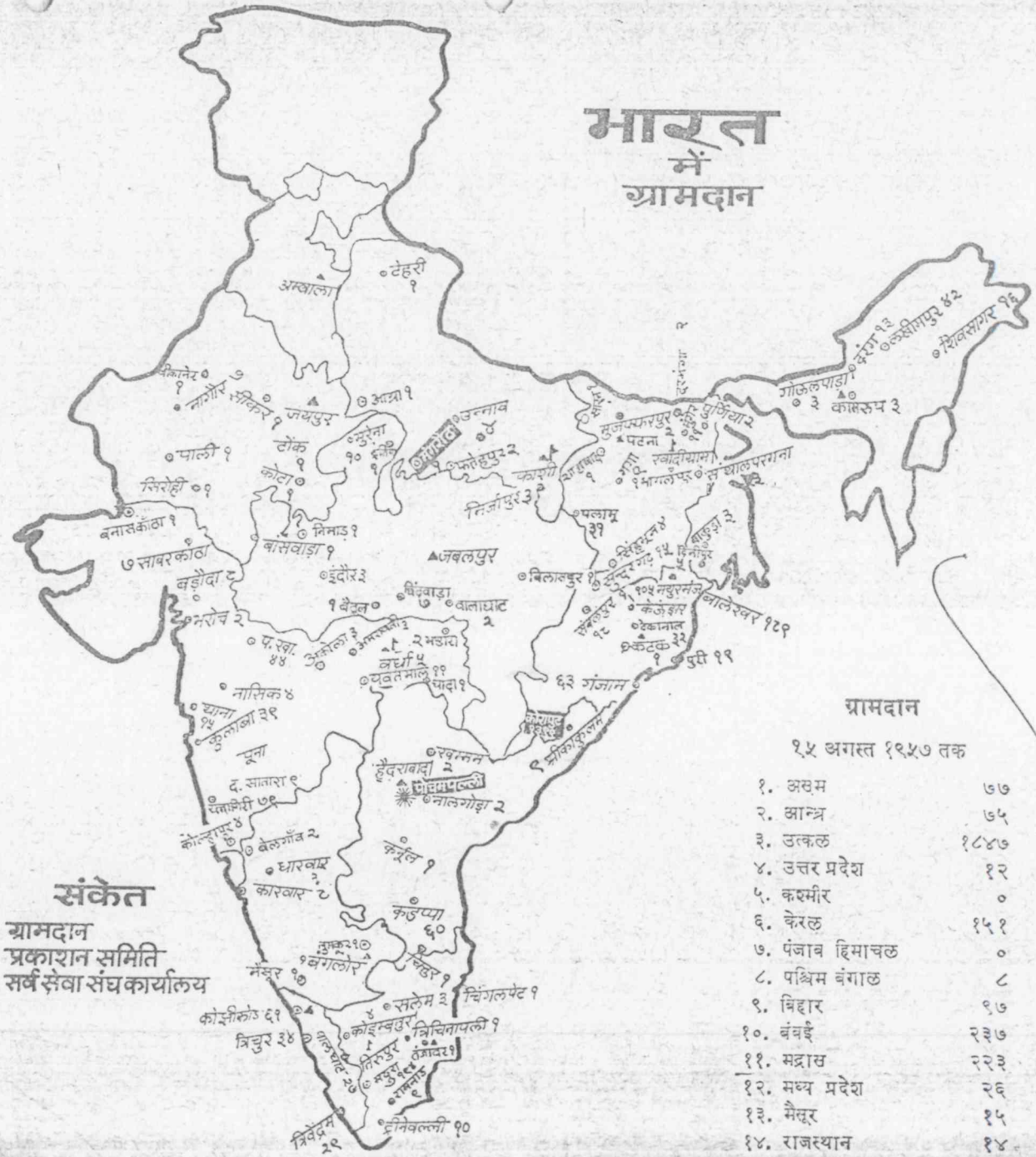
वह कौन करे ? विनोबा ने अपने को भगवान् के हाथों सौंप दिया। भूदान-यज्ञ-आरोहण प्रारंभ हुआ।

* * *

भूदान-यज्ञ के मूल में जो स्वामित्व-विसर्जन का भाव निहित था, उसका दर्शन उत्तरप्रदेश के मंगरौठ ग्राम में पहले 'ग्रामदान' के रूप में हुआ। उत्कल में कोरापुट के कनवासियों ने सैकड़ों की तादाद में 'ग्रामदान' दिये। भूदान और ग्रामदान के रूप में क्रान्ति के इतिहास ने एक नया मोड़ लिया।

तमिलनाडु में तो शिक्षित विचार-प्रवण जनता और कीमती उपजाऊ जमीन, फिर भी ग्रामदान मिलते चले।

आज देश-विदेश के विचारक भूदान, ग्रामदान का उत्साहपूर्वक समर्थन कर रहे हैं। वह भारत के संजीवन का मंत्र और विश्वशांति का एक कारगर साधन माना जा रहा है।



ग्रामदान १५ अगस्त १९५७ तक	
१. असम	७७
२. आन्ध्र	७५
३. उत्कल	१८४७
४. उत्तर प्रदेश	१२
५. कश्मीर	०
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७. पंजाब हिमाचल	०
८. पश्चिम बंगाल	८
९. बिहार	९७
१०. बंबई	२३७
११. मद्रास	२२३
१२. मध्य प्रदेश	२६
१३. मैसूर	१५
१४. राजस्थान	१४
कुल	२७८२

135-19

“Land, wealth, talents, all belong to The Creator. The society provides us with the opportunity for the development of all our faculties and the exploitation of all natural resources. It's ours to serve society according to our best capacity and talents. Every one of us is entitled to receive only so much as he needs. None has the right to ownership. Bhoodan takes its stand on this principle.

In our homes we share whatever we have and then work together to produce more. Love is thus the vital breath of all corporate human existence.

Love expresses itself in a genuine consideration for the needs of others. This is the chief incentive that moves us to action in our family life. This engenders a like consideration for our welfare in the minds of others. This is the surest way of mutual uplift and universal well-being.

The people think that the Government will do everything. This is an entirely wrong notion. The people should feel enthusiastic about making their village beautiful, clean and free from sordid ambitions. They should develop a sense of responsibility.

There is an additional and potent reason why Gramdan has become a necessity. War may break out any moment. If there is another war, our Five Year Plan will be in grave danger. Why am I impatient? Because if we act without delay, we shall be saved in every way. If we do not act soon, we shall not be able to achieve our goal. If we want to save the country, we must have atleast enough stock of food in every village to feed its inhabitants for two years. This will be possible when the people develop a feeling of unity and make an agreed plan. You can not have a Village-Plan without villagization of land. Gramdan has thus become necessary even as a measure of national defence.

In Gramdan the people ought to do the following things for themselves :

1. Re-distribution of land and improvements in the methods of agriculture.
2. Village-industries, cow-protection and kitchen-gardens.
3. Basic education.
4. Health and hygiene : Sanitation : A small garden of medicinal plants.
5. Settlement of local disputes by local arbitration or Nyaya Panchayats.

There shall be a Gram-Sabha or Village-Council consisting of all inhabitants of the village above the age of sixteen. Various committees for specific services to the village shall be appointed by a unanimous vote. Marriage ceremonies and such other social functions will be the responsibility of the whole village. The village as a whole shall be responsible for all the debts incurred. The village will determine what goods shall be imported. There will be a co-operative shop managed by the village. In short, the villagers will make their own village plan.”

—Vinoba

In this structure composed of innumerable villages, life will not be a pyramid with the apex sustained by the bottom. but it will be an oceanic circle whose centre will be the individual always ready to perish for the village, the latter ready to perish for the circle of villages, till at last the whole becomes one life.

Therefore, the outermost circumference will not wield power to crush the inner circle, but will give strength to all within and derive its own strength from it.

‘Harijan’, 28.7.‘46 —M. K. Gandhi

A.B. SARVA SEVA SANGH PRAKASHAN
RAJGHAT • KASHI

GRAM DĀN

First Bhoodān*	18th Apr., '52
At Pochampalli (Andhra)	
* * *	
First Grāmdān†	24th May, '52
By Mangroth (Uttar Pradesh)	
* * *	
Total Bhoodān	41,84,234 Acres
In India	Up to 31st Dec. '56
Total Grāmdān	2,782
In India	Up to 15th Aug., '57
No. of Grāmdāns	1,400
In Koraput Dist. (Utkal)	
	Up to 15th Aug., '57

* Land gift † Gift of village.

If we want Swaraj to be built on non-violence, we will have to give the villages their proper place.

‘Harijan’, 20.1.‘40.

True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village.

‘Harijan’, 18.1.‘48. M. K. Gandhi.

There is hunger, want and misery in the world. How can there be any peace unless we find a solution for these problems ?

—Vinoba

13-20

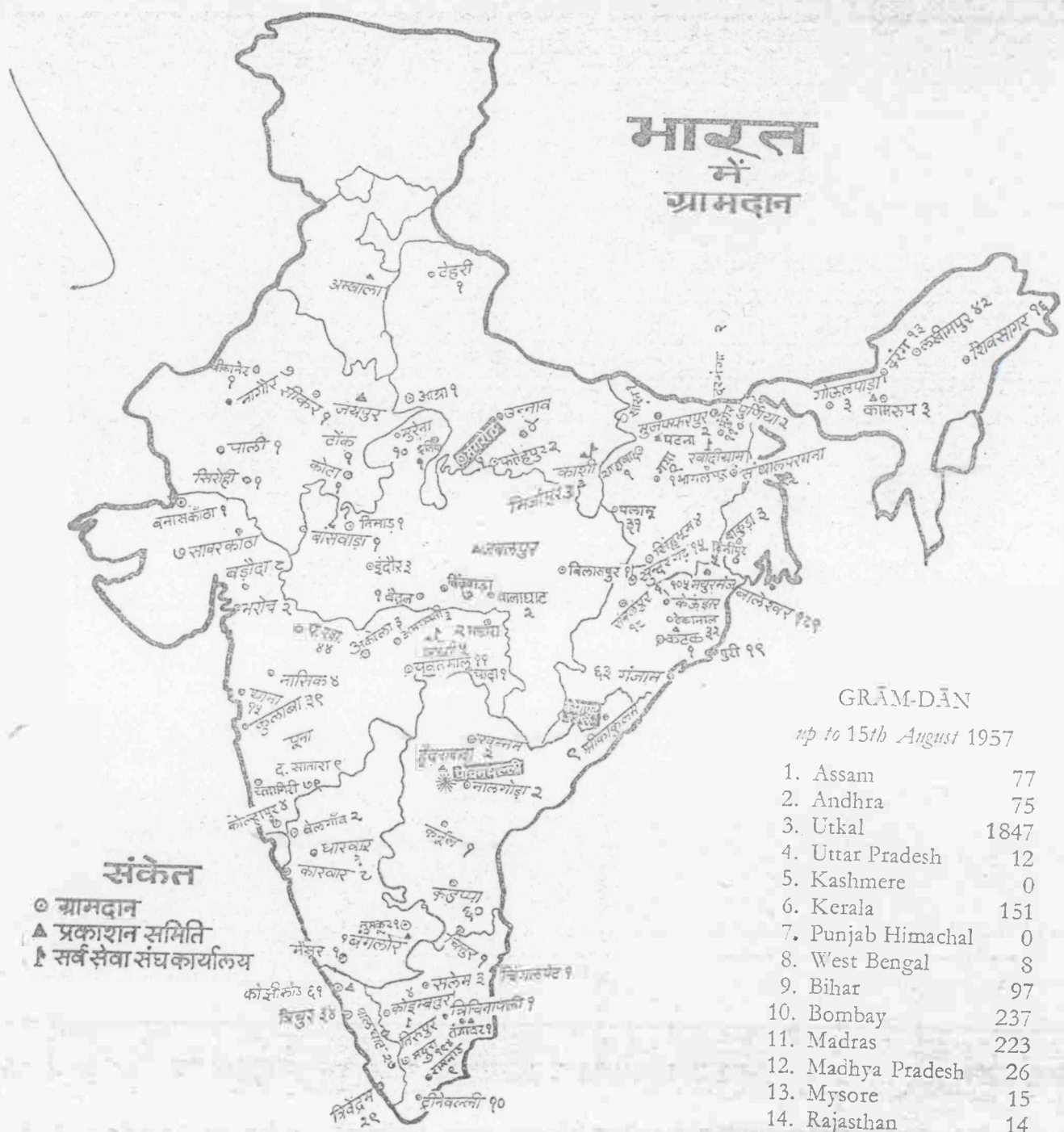
At Pochampalli Vinoba, out of a natural instinct appealed to the landowners to donate a part of their land with a view to solve the problem of landlessness in their village. Almost immediately a gift of a hundred acres was announced. This small incident proved full of tremendous significance. It set Vinoba thinking earnestly. It struck him that a countrywide movement of voluntary landgifts may bring about a revolution through love and mutual goodfaith. The idea gave birth to Bhoodan.

Vinoba began to wonder: "If the technique of conversion, better known to the world as the technique of 'a change of heart', could bring us political emancipation, could it not also enable us to achieve economic and social salvation by bringing about a change of heart among our countrymen who own land and wealth and resources?"

Who was to put his shoulder to the wheel? Vinoba placed himself absolutely in the hands of God in whose Providence he has implicit faith. 'Bhoodan Yajna', the great movement based on the technique not of rising oneself, but helping one another to rise, was launched.

The fundamental idea behind this movement is the voluntary surrender of private ownership. The idea found its practical expression in Mangroth, in U. P., which has the proud distinction of being the first Gramdani village—the first village to eliminate private ownership in land. Koraput District in Utkal followed with several hundreds of Gramdans. A new chapter in the history of the movement began.

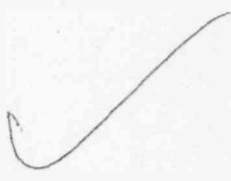
Very eminent thinkers, both Indian and foreign, and all those interested in the resuscitation of human values are giving their unstinted support to the cause of 'Bhoodan' and 'Gramdan'. It has come to be regarded as the instrument of national regeneration and achieving World Peace.



संकेत

- ग्रामदान
- ▲ प्रकाशन समिति
- ♠ सर्व सेवा संघ कार्यालय

पोस्टादीग्राम
जिला-मुंगेर (बिहार)
ता०३१-८-२७



आदरणीय महोदय,

ता० २१-२२ सितम्बर को मैसूर में होनेवाली ग्रामदान परिषद के बारे में आपको संघ की ओर से निमंत्रण भेजा था। परिषद मैसूर से करीब आठ मील दूर 'इलावाठ' गांव के पास सरकारी बंगले में होगी। परिषद का काम ता०२१ सितम्बर को दिन के ३ बजे से शुरू होकर शामको ६ बजे तक तथा ता० २२ को सुबह ६ से १२ तक चलेगा। आवश्यक हुआ तो ता० २२ को तीसरे पहर के समय का उपयोग भी साथ ही परिषद के काम के लिए करना पड़े। आशा है आप कृपा कर अपना कार्यक्रम इसके अनुसार रखेंगे।

निवास, भोजन आदि का प्रबन्ध 'इलावाठ' बंगले में उपलब्ध रहेगा। अगर आप मैसूर में अन्यत्र ठहरने वाले हों तो कृपा कर ऐसा सूचित करें। भोजन में कोई विशिष्ट प्रबन्ध करना ही तो आवश्यक सूचना प्रदान करें।

परिषद के लिए जिन्हें निमंत्रण भेजा गया है उन की नामावली इस पत्र के साथ भेज रहा हूँ। जैसा निमंत्रण में सूचित किया गया था परिषद की कार्य का मुख्य विषय ग्रामदान के काम की किस प्रकार व्यापक बनाया जाय और उसमें मदद पहुंचाई जाय यह रहेगा। ग्रामदान के सम्बन्ध में संधिप्लत जानकारी का एक पत्रक आपकी सेवा में भेजा जा रहा है। इससे इलावा ग्रामदान के अन्तर्गत के काम का संधिप्लत विवरण और उसकी वैचारिक पृष्ठभूमि के सम्बन्ध में एक छोटीसी पुस्तिका भी पांच-छात दिन के बाद आपकी सेवा में पहुंचेगी।

विनीत

श्री. (स. प. सि.)
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(शिबराज दहला)
सह-मंत्री

संवर, ...

ग्रामदान परिषद भेदों के लिएनिंत्रितों की सूची

१. श्री राजेन्द्र बाबू
२. ,, श्रीमल्ली राधाकृष्णन्
३. ,, श्रीमंता अमरलाल नेहरू
४. ,, राजगोपालाचारी
५. ,, स्वप्रकाश नारायण
६. ,, आचार्य कृष्णानी
७. ,, श्रीमता आजाद
८. ,, श्रीमन्त करुण पंत
९. ,, उ. न. देवर
१०. ,, सुरारजी केसाई
११. ,, युजारीलाल नन्दा
१२. ,, श्रीमन्तरुण सिंह
१३. ,, श्रीमन्त मेहता
१४. ,, काका कलेकर
१५. ,, श्रीमन्नारायण
१६. ,, कल्ल दोग
१७. ,, एस. ए. जोगे
१८. ,, रा. लनोकर लोडिया
१९. ,, श्रीमन्त मेहता
२०. ,, श्रीमन्त सिंह
२१. ,, श्रीमन्त नाडर
२२. ,, श्रीमन्त जी
२३. ,, श्रीमन्त सिंह

अखिल भारत सर्व सेवा संघ

प्रधान केन्द्र : श्रमभारती

CAMP A. B. S. S. S. PRAKASHAN?

पोस्ट—खादीग्राम

तार—'Sarvaseva' Mallehpur

V A R A N A S I.

जिल्ला—मुंगेर (बिहार)

पत्रांक

दिनांक

2-9-57.

My Dear Shri Dangeji,

Your office has sent an acknowledgement of the invitation sent to you on behalf of the Sarva Seva Sangh for the Mysore Conference. An invitation has been sent to Shri Ajoy Ghosh also.

During our talk when we met you in Delhi you had mentioned that Shri Namboodiripad Chief Minister of Kerala was more conversant in matters pertaining to land and agriculture. We have sent an invitation to Shri Namboodiripad also to attend the Conference.

Yours faithfully,



(Siddharaj Dhadde)

Joint-Secretary.

Shri S.A.Dange,

4, Asoka Road,

N E W - D E L H I.

Copy for information to:-

Shri Ajoy Ghosh

201, North Avenue

N E W - D E L H I

Wm

Wm
4/7



हरिजन-सेवक-संघ

Bh-23

HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH

(Central Office)

Kingsway, Delhi. 9,

Ref. 77/954

Dated 4th Sept., 1957.

Dear Sir,

I send you herewith a note on the "Acquisition of Land in Khampur village for the A.I.R." published in the English Supplement of the "Harijan Seva" for your special attention.

A copy of the Harijan Seva and Supplement was posted to you but it may not have been brought to your notice and therefore I am sending this to you again.

The matter has taken nearly two-and-a-half years and still the poor Harijans and Backward Class tenants have not got justice. This is all due to indifference and negligence of the officials of both the Central Government and Delhi State. I will therefore request you to kindly move the department concerned to enquire into the matter as to who is responsible for all this and arrive at a speedy settlement.

I again request you to kindly take a little interest in this particular question and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

(K.S. Shivam)
WORKING SECRETARY.

Shri Shripad Amrit Dange
4 Ashoka Road, New Delhi

Refer
Latter part

6/17

Welfare Schools in all the districts in the State.

Government have also sanctioned the detailed plans of the Director of Harijan Welfare for schemes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes during 1957-58 to the tune of Rs. 68.44 lakhs under the Second Five Year Plan.

The Scheme for the award of rewards to village headmen and social-workers for service in the cause of eradication of untouchability is to be continued. Award of boarding grants, provision of mid-day meals to non-Harijans and Harijans in Harijan Welfare Schools, grant of scholarships and school fees and maintenance of Harijan Welfare Schools are to be continued as in previous years.

Sanction has also been accorded to a proposal to acquire 1,709 house-sites for Harijans and allotting them in 1957-58 after providing all sanitary amenities, such as drainage, pathways, water, light etc., at a cost of Rs. 5.92,000. In connection with the construction of houses for the benefit of Scheduled Castes in 1957-58, Rs. 15.09 lakhs has been sanctioned. This will enable the putting up of 2,710 houses during the year.

Executive Committee Decisions.

The Executive Committee of the Harijan Sevak Sangh met under the Chairmanship of Shri G. D. Birla at New Delhi on 19-7-57 and after dis-

posing off the routine and account matters decided to reorganise the branches in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bombay according to the reorganised states. It also appointed a trust to control the Provident Fund of the staff.

Regarding the question of Harijans converted to Buddhism, after thorough discussion it came to the conclusion that as in the beginning the Harijan Sevak Sangh was started for removing untouchability that exists in Hindu Samaj and therefore the Harijan Sevak Sangh should continue its activities for removing untouchability that exists in Hindu Samaj only.

Regarding the grant from Gandhi Smarak Nidhi it decided that the Secretaries of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and the Harijan Sevak Sangh should come to a workable decision agreeable to both the institutions. It also approved the installation of a power pump at Kasturba Balika Ashram, Ishwar Nagar, Delhi for both cultivation and for the use of the students at a cost of Rs. 2,500.

Acquisition of Land in Khampur Village for the A.I.R.

Khampur village is situated at a distance of 12 miles from Delhi near Alipore on the Rohtak Road and consists of nearly 75 houses composed of 31 Harijans, 35 Backward Classes and the rest Brahmins. The area of

Bh-24

this village is about 4,200 bighas lying on both sides of the Rohtak Road. The whole village was made a gift to the grand father of Shri Inder Singh, Sundar Singh etc. Brahmins of Sonapat, District Rohtak for the loyal service rendered to the British during the 1857 upheaval, it is said, after slaughtering all the able-bodied villagers i.e. practically all the Brahmins, Rajputs and Jats of the village who sided with the independence movement.

Thus it was the Harijans and Backward Classes left in the village, who continued cultivating the land under the new land-lord.

The Delhi Land Reforms Act came into force in July, '54 making the tenants prospective zamindars from that date. The present land-lord Shri Inder Singh, Sundar Singh etc. realising that they will be deprived of the land were on the look out to dispose of it at whatever cost. In December, 1954 the A.I.R. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting made a request to the local Government to acquire 2,700 bighas of the Khampur land for a new High power Transmitter. Of this over 1,400 bighas have been under cultivation by Harijans and Backward Classes for generations. The rest was 'Charagah,' Banjar and contained water ponds for cattle and wells for cultivation.

Dr. Keskar, Minister for I.&B. was told, it appears, that the land was wholly Banjar and not under cultivation and the owner was glad to part with it. The Delhi State Government had been pointing out all along that the acquisition of this site will cause difficulty to cultivators and asked them to select another site but the A.I.R. insisted on this particular land and thus acquisition was proceeded with. The land was acquired on the 7th May, 1955 from the landlord without the knowledge and consent of the prospective tenants.

The Harijan tenants made a complaint to the Harijan Sevak Sangh on 9th July, 1955 which was forward to the Minister for I. & B. who promised to enquire into the matter on 15th July, '55. The A. I. R. officials maintained that the land was Banjar and the Harijans had no right to the land. Photographs of the cultivated land showing standing crops were sent to the Ministry of I.&B. and the A.I.R. Later the Secretaries of the Harijan Sevak Sangh met the Minister and Secretary I.&B. who told them that the Delhi State Government had given the Minister wrong information about the land and if he had known the real facts he would not have asked for acquisition of that land.

Bh-25

The Home Department was also approached through the Congress President, which suggested that fertile agricultural land should be released and the compensation be paid into the court and to both these points the Minister and Secretary of I. & B. also agreed so that the cultivators could purchase land somewhere else with the money. But the land acquisition Collector made the award without enquiring into the claims of the cultivators to Shri Indra Singh, Sundar Singh etc. and against this the cultivators filed objections with the collector before the payment of compensation. However, he hurriedly paid about 3 lacs of rupees to the land-lord, which included a large amount of compensation due to cultivators. A sum of Rs. 1,55,418/8/- was, however, paid into the Dist. court as the cultivators had raised objection to this payment also.

Now the certificates of Bhoomidari have not so far been issued to these cultivators and therefore they could not justify their claim for compensation and as the Dist. court threatened to pay this amount also to the land-lord, the Harijan Sevak sangh had to appeal to the High court for a stay order and thus the payment has been stopped by the High Court and the money is still lying with the Dist. court.

As suggested by the Home Department

the A.I.R. derequisitioned about 250 bighas of fertile agricultural land on 28-9-55 but the cultivators have not been permitted to cultivate this land as yet. Certificates of Bhoomidari is being issued to cultivators in other villages in Delhi but these people have not been given the certificates as yet inspite of the Chief Commissioner's instruction to expedite the same.

Now it is nearly two and-a-half years since their lands were acquired and they are at the verge of starvation. They have no work, no land to cultivate, no grass-land for their cattle and have not received a pie of the compensation money. A part of it is still lying with the court. These poor and illiterate Harijans are pitted against rich land-lords with official influence. They looked to the Harijan Sevak Sangh to help them out of their difficulty. The Sangh with its resources and influence has been running from pillar to post to get their grievances redressed and inspite of the sympathy and co-operation of the Ministers, and the Congress President, and the Chief Commissioner it has not been able to secure them justice for the last two-and-a-half years and the matter is still hanging fire.

I hope it is not wrong to ask:—

1. Whether the Land Acquisition Collector was not aware of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, '54

- and if he was, why did he not consult the prospective Bhoomidars before acquiring their land.
2. Why was so much land acquired when they could have done with a smaller area ?
 3. Was not the A.I.R. told by the Delhi State that the land was low-lying and will not serve their purpose and that it was under cultivation and that they should select another site? Why was this fact not brought to the notice of the Minister ?
 4. Why was the Minister of I. & B. kept ignorant of the actual position about that land? Who was responsible for giving this wrong information to the Minister ?
 5. Why did the A.I.R. insist on this particular land? Who is interested and responsible for this transaction ?
 6. Why was compensation paid for the derequisitioned land? Why was this hurry ?
 7. Is not Shri Indar Singh one of the land-lords to whom the compensation money was paid an officer in the A.G.C.R. Office and interested in this deal ?
 8. Why was the Land Acquisition Collector in a hurry to make this award and payment before he relinquished charge ?
 9. Why is the Revenue Department, Delhi delaying the issue of the Bhoomidari Certificates to these cultivators inspite of the Chief Commissioner's instructions to expedite the same all these years ?
 10. Is it just and fair to dispossess poor cultivators of their land and let them starve for two-and-a-half years without payment or providing them with alternative land for cultivation ?

K. S. Shivam
Working Secretary

YUVAKA SANGHA

Bh-22

H. S. DORESWMY
President
V. S. KRISHNA IYER
Vice-President
V. ANNAIAH
Gen. Secretary

Ref. _____

115, GANDHI BAZAAR,
BANGALORE 4.

Date 5-9-1957

In S.A. Dange.
Communist Party of India.
New Delhi

Dear Comrade,

Under the auspices of our Sangha we have been organising Bhoodan Sampathi dan and Sarvodaya literature drive in Bangalore city. Sri Vallabha swami, Joint Secretary, Sarva Seva Sangha was with us on the 1st of September 1957 to inaugurate this campaign. It is our fervent hope that if you should go over here during your ensuing visit to Mysore and spend a few days with us, we will be able to do more effective work than we ourselves can. You can either be in our midst before your visit to Mysore or after, according to your convenience. Hope you will respond to our request that write to us early indicating the date of your arrival in Bangalore city so that we might make the best use of your services during your stay.

Thanking you for an immediate reply,

Yours in Service

H. S. Doreswamy
President.

13h-21

4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi

September 10, 1957

Dear Shri Doraiswamy,

Yours of 5th inst.

Shri Dange is leaving for abroad to attend the WFTU Congress and as such it may not be possible for him to attend the Mysore Convention. Accordingly, he would not be able to participate and visit your organisation.

Sincerely yours,

vmc
19/IX

(K.G.Sriwastava)

President,
Yuvak Sangh,
115 Gandhi Bazar,
Bangalore 4.

Bh-13

AKHIL BHARAT SARWA SEVA SANGH

JEYPORE (Koraput)
(ORISSA)

Ref. No. 1024/57-0.W.

Date 12th September 1957.

Dear Sri

Please find enclosed herewith a note prepared by us on 'Gramdan In Koraput'. It was written some time back on the occasion of the 4th Tribal Welfare Conference at Koraput. Another note prepared specially for the Mysore Conference, dealing with the various aspects of our 1 and half years experience with the work in Koraput is, also, attached thereto. The third pamphlet though much old today, may help to give a general information on Gramdan Movement.

Hope this may help acquaint you with the work we are engaged in.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Pandit Patankar

(Pandit Patankar)
For S E C R E T A R Y
AKHIL BHARAT SARWA SEVA SANGH.

*Pl. Ask m...
On 10/9/57
10/9/57*

To

Sri C.A. Donge.

A SHORT NOTE ON THE LAST ONE AND HALF YEARS
WORK IN GRAMDAN AREAS IN KORAPUT:

In Koraput District alone there are about 1400 Gramdan villages. These villages cover nearly 2,16,000 acres of land area involving about 20,000 donors. From amongst these 1400 villages, distribution of land is over in 700 villages, which in its turn has helped resettle nearly 3,700 earstwhile landless families, & with a land area of 1 lac acres.

Land Dona-
tions.

Like elsewhere, today, Gramdans in Koraput as well, include the following 5 categories of land donations:

- a) Where total agricultural land of the village has been donated;
- b) Where total Agricultural land of the hamlet or hamlets (but not all the hamlets and as such all the land of the village) is donated;
- c) Where all Agricultural land either in case of villages or hamlets has been donated, excluding the Service and Government lands;
- d) Where Agricultural land belonging only to the resident owners of the village or hamlet has been donated;
- e) Where Agricultural land belonging to 70 or 80% of the population has been donated and the rest of the population comprises of either the resident land-owners, absentee land-lords or permanent tenant cultivators;

Great majority of Gramdans in Koraput fall under category (b) mentioned above.

tri-
bution and
Redistri-
bution.

While those of Balesore, Mayurbhanj and Ganjam Districts fall in category (d) and (e). While granting the, thus, donated land back to the village community, the community in a meeting of representative type, distributes the land to all the families residing in the village. It is however, a fact that in very few cases equitable distribution based either on the size of the family or the quality of the land has succeeded so far. As the distribution is left to villagers themselves considerations of status, both social and economic, weigh much higher and as a result inequalities persist. Persistence of inequalities further accentuate notions of ownership, and the present day anomalies of disproportionate scales of land use and man-power perpetuate.

Obstacles
in effecting
redistribu-
tion.

Periodical redistribution of land is a remedy that is suggested on this anomaly. But it must be admitted that during the course of last two years such redistribution could successfully be worked out at very few places. No doubt problems of incentives for production and for betterment of land, do stand in the way of this suggested periodical redistribution. However, the major problem is altogether of a different nature. Firstly it is an outright reflection of deep-rooted inertia of social inequalities and secondly it speaks for want of proper economic perspective of progress.

Redistribution coupled with better organization. /on

Where these later two were not found lacking, redistribution has been worked out without causing any harm to the productive incentives of the Community. In fact, in one village such redistribution was worked out for 5 times during the course of last two years. To-day in case of wet land a perfect equitable distribution based on size of the family has been brought about. All the labour potential of the village was tapped in order to develop this plot of paddy land. Payments were made not based on principles of capacities but on that of needs. Nearly 60% of labour, thus, was transformed into capital by introducing a group system to operate the work. A successful demonstration on these lines at that spot is catching imagination of the vicinity now, and there is every possibility of its large scale and rapid multiplication.

Payments according to needs.

The principles that were adopted in payment viz. according to needs rather than capacities were entirely due to the tenacity and faith of the worker on the spot. But his success in hitting hard at the prevalent social and economic inequalities in terms of land resources, is entirely attributable to the proper economic perspective of progress that the worker possessed before under-taking the task of reorganization of those resources.

'Community land'

In this village, as well as in all other villages while distributing land, a portion of the land is kept aloof as 'Community land' which is a Common Reserve for purposes of Seed farm, Orchards, certain cash crops and the like. It is operated to a great extent on voluntary basis by the community. No rigid system is recommended. Either of the following methods is in vogue at present.

- (a) The community taking the risk of cultivation, but organising the farming operations on a share of crop and partial payment of wage basis.
- (b) The community taking the risk of cultivation, providing casual labour on voluntary basis, keeping in tact its own supervision, but by engaging on wage basis some of the erstwhile landless for the regular farm operations who cannot immediately go for cultivation on their own allotments and earn their living thereon.

Institutional problems of 'Community land'.

None of these methods suggest, an Institutional solution for farming this community land, where land distribution for individual farming has been worked out on equitable basis. The rationale of crop planning and land utilization points unmistakably towards diversified agriculture. This, in its turn, under an individual farming system inevitably suggests common pooling of land for certain types of crops, if the tenets of equal returns are not to be sacrificed.

A Pilot project on Co-operative Farming.

All these, so far unsolved difficulties, have led many workers to think on lines of co-operative farming. This project also has kept a perfectly open mind on all the organisational matters. No inhibitions have been entertained at any time on such vital topics of experimental importance. But certain factors, characteristic of the local situations, here, have kept the progress of farm management on co-operative lines still in an unrealised form.

The Senews of Co-operative action.

If co-operatives are not to be craved for and looked upon merely for the name sake; and if they are to be accepted on considerations of outlay and return applied over larger areas, then certainly they lay heavy demand on organisational experience of a greater intensity, which unfortunately cannot be tapped on a big scale.

Efforts at building the Experience.

In spite of the great appeal that this project has succeeded in making to the constructive and enterprising minds of younger generation, so far this project cannot boast of such high degree of experience properly conditioned by the local factors both Geographical as well as social and cultural.

Service Co-operatives on wide scale.

Last year the project undertook to organise 6 such experimental cum-demonstration centres, situated in different climatic and social conditions. The village mentioned above is one of these 6 centres. Limitations imposed by factors of language and uncommon cultural patterns is actually setting scale to the scope and output of work.

Koraput a Chronic case of Rural Credit.

This year a proposal is sponsored for a pilot Project on Co-operative farming. A project organized and operated in deep liaison with the Government sponsored Development agencies. Though it is yet in the formative stage. In the realm of co-operative organization in other fields like Credit, marketing and supply, Koraput would probably top the list of priorities. In spite of the Money Lenders Act, the Adivasi is crushed, today, under the heels of most inhuman exploitation at the hands of money lenders. The exploitation consists of all the three forms viz. fraudulent floating of the loaned capital amount; unimaginably excessive interest rates; and taking forcible possession of the farm produce at harvest time at much lower rates, and sale or advances of the same during off season at equally high ones.

Bleak prospects of traditional Credit as a result of Gramdan.

The situation was worsened by Gramdans. They were denied credit on the pretext that they no longer hold any piece of land against the security of which advances could be made. The Sarva Seva Sangh, in their follow up programme gave top priority to co-operative consumers stores; and even to marketing and supply through an unregistered co-operative union - the marketing section of the Sarva Seva Sangh. In their limited capacities they undertook to finance the off-season advances as well.

Dist. Co-operative Union for Gramdan Area.

But limitations of such a voluntary organization were obvious. They tried their utmost to bring in the regular credit agencies. Appreciating fully well licitation of Government and co-operative agencies to expand such services on a grand scale, the Sarva Seva Sangh also offered to help organise these operation through a District Co-operative Union (Note enclosed for ready reference.) But unfortunately these proposals could not hold favourable ground with the State Government. They were ignored and were paid scant attention in the beginning. But after the visit of the Dy. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India in May last, they were given a serious consideration, and perhaps as a result were turned down. The main argument veered round the plea that it amounts to creating a parallel organization. Unfortunately enough while taking such a decision no substitutes through established channels, were provided for (as was done in Madras Gramdan Areas). As a result the Adivasi is penalised for an act which was purported to be a progressive act, according to many even in Government to-day.

Sangh restricts its area of Operation.

With a view to strike another compromise, the Sarva Seva Sangh has now offered to limit its area of operation to only 10 centres which may cover, at the most, about 200 villages. Here they shall develop their training activities, and use them as qualitative programme building nuclei for the rest of the area. The credit operations in this area, too, will be handled by the Govt. agencies.

Co-operation with Govt. agencies.

Here, in this limited area, as well as in the rest of the Gramdan villages, where Govt. agencies will be working, the Sarva Seva Sangh has offered to effect sound co-ordination.

Gramdan and Community Development.

Another proposal was made in June last - inviting the Community Development and the NES Block agencies to participate whole heartedly in this genuine type of Community Development, where 'Plan to every Family' has been made possible and where mobilising of productive forces in keeping with the declared State Policies is practicable. It is most unfortunate that the persistent efforts at effecting a sound co-ordination between the various development agencies made by Sarva Seva Sangh have not borne fruits so far.

Team of Experienced Workers.

During the course of last one and half year the Sangh has remarkably succeeded in building a Team of most ardent workers from all walks of life. To-day there are nearly 250 workers engaged in this work, here, Well experienced Engineers, Agricultural Experts, Experienced Soil Conservation Staff accompanied by a good cadre of young University Graduates, all have joined their hands and put in their heads together in this field of experimentation in new forms of Socio-Economic organisation. There are, also, about 40 women workers scattered in the interior of this other-wise impenetrable tract.

Five Year Programme.

Mobilisation of technical and other services on such a grand scale was felt necessary because of the huge burden of follow up which they had volunteered to shoulder in 1956 according to the 5 year scheme submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India.

The where-withals.

The programme covered major items like Soil Conservation, Minor Irrigation, Agriculture, Bullock distribution, Cottage Industries, Education, and Marketing. A scheme costing Rs. 94,15,000/- was prepared and was approved. The central Govt. sanctioned a total grant of 64 lacs spread over a period of Five years as against a total expenditure of Rs. 94.15 lacs. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board had sanctioned Rs. 10 lacs to cover cottage industries programme. Gandhi Smarak Nidhi had promised another 10 lacs. Sarva Seva Sangh was to put in an equal amount.

Progress of Expenditure.

This scheme was approved in December last, the final report on the 1st year's working will be brought out sometime by the middle of next month. The expenditure debitable to the Govt. share of the total grants, this year, will be in the neighbourhood of 6 to 7 lacs, as against the proposed expenditure of 11 lacs. Slow progress would be attributed to the delays in getting the necessary funds and the failure to mobilise technical personnel in time. For the next year, efforts to work out fresh arrangement with the State Development Agencies are in progress.

Bhoothan
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In spite of the large amounts spent in Adivasi and the interest of Adivasi, here, it must be admitted that the Development the Sangh has not so far succeeded, on large areas, in building local initiatives and a new leadership with a new outlook. Of course, as compared to the non-Gramdan areas in Koraput, this leadership gives an indication of new understanding. But that is not all. Equally slow is the progress in the efforts to link the last man in the developmental effort quite successfully; and to put him first on the list of priorities. Whenever this has been attempted, the activities have taken the shape and colour of a 'Relief Programme.' This surely indicates that the organization has yet to reach the rock bottom of the Social structure here.

The law and Gramdansa administrative procedures also would need a drastic orientation on new lines. Even the Amended Bhoothan Yagna Act of the Govt. of Orissa has not helped expediate the changeover and mark out a swift transition. It appears certain minor loopholes will hinder the cause considerably. The law applies to donations of total Agricultural land in a village. The village here refers to Revenue village, and it appears that the fate of a number of hamlets would remain still hanging in the balance. That way the draft bill before Madras Legislature is a great improvement on that of Orissa Act. It provides for donations of 70% of the land or by 70% of the population.

Govt. should join hand.

In fact will it not be considered a step in the right direction if about 70 to 75 per cent of the people residing in a village renounce the individual ownership of land and vest it in a corporate body - may be a co-operative Society-by accepting within its fold all the landless in the village and further agreeing to distribute these resources, thus pooled, fairly equitably? Should we in such a case insist on cent per cent donations of land before proceeding any further, thereby showing cold shoulders to the zeal and enthusiasm of many in favour of few? Actually it is not only sufficient to recognise this as a progressive step, but the Govt. also should play a positive role in implementing their land Reforms policies very effectively in such areas. They shall have to put in these areas, on their list of priorities in terms of Land Reforms, and bring in force the clauses of 'Personal cultivation', thereby asking the big landholders who have remained aloof from trend of the majority, to either join hands with some special understanding or to surrender the excess land to the co-operative pool under a system of mutually agreed rental.

the

Adivasi and the State.

The Adivasi who is partly leading a secluded life, and who has remained dumb in front of all injustices perpetrated by the so called civilized man for all these years, if has to be successfully brought into the fold of development with his own initiatives, needs to be looked upon from an altogether different angle than the present day administration purports to do. A new confidence needs to be generated in his mind so that he feels that the entire Govt. machinery stands to safeguard his interests rather than the interests of the well-to-do. From the experience of the past one and half year's work in Koraput it would be rather risky to say that the administrative machinery here is oriented fully well on these lines. This needs a serious thought on the part of those who are

Bh-K

S. A. DANGE,

4 Ashok Road,
NEW DELHI.



September 12, 1957

Dear Shri Siddharaj Dhaddaji,

Your letter of 2nd inst., to Com.Dange.

On behalf of the Communist Party, Com.Ajoy Ghosh,
General Secretary, and Dr.Z.A.Ahmad, Member of the Polit
Bureau, will be attending the Conference.

Com.Dange has to go to the Congress of the World
Federation of Trade Unions at Leipzig (East Germany) and
as such it would not be possible for him to attend it,
much as he would have liked to do.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Shri Siddharaj Dhadda,
Joint Secretary,
Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh,
Camp A.B.S.S.S.Prakashan,
VARANASI.

Bh-11

ಖದ್ದರ್ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಹಾಯ ಸಂಘ, ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್, ಮೈಸೂರು.

KHADDAR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.,

Registered under Act VII of 1918 and Certified by The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

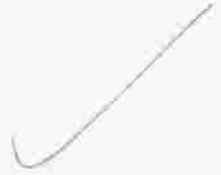
No. No 80-10/51-58
Encl.

LANSDOWNE BUILDINGS, MYSORE.

..13th..September...1957..

To

Sri S. A. Danze,
c/o Communist Party of India,
Asaf Ali Road, NEW DELHI.



Sir,

The President and Members of the Managing Committee of the Khaddar Co-operative Society, Ltd., Mysore, most cordially invite you to pay a visit to the Society during your ensuing stay at Mysore and bless the Institution.

The Society is the oldest and the only certified Institution dealing in Khaddar for the past 30 years in Mysore City. The Management deems it a great honour, if you will kindly make it convenient to visit the Institution.

Thanking you, Sir.

Yours faithfully,

For the Khaddar Co-operative Society, Ltd.

(N. SRINIVASA MURTY, B.A.)

ಎ. ಕೆ. ಅನಿವಾಸ ಮೂರ್ತಿ
Secy. Mysore



YOJANA



THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CHIEF EDITOR
KHUSHWANT SINGH

OLD SECRETARIAT
DELHI - 8

D.C.No. Y-B/57

SEPT. 14, 1957.

Dear Com. Dange,

I am sending you a copy of a pamphlet written by me on the refugees from East Pakistan. I hope you will like it.

Yours sincerely,

(Khushwant Singh)

Com. S.A. Dange,
Member of Parliament,
4-Ashok Road,
NEW DELHI.

S. A. DANGE,

4 Ashok Road,

New Delhi

September 18, 1957

Dear Shri Khushwant Singh,

Thank you for the copy of the pamphlet
"The Unending Trail" sent under cover of your
letter of the 15th inst., to Comrade Dange.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

vm
18/9

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Shri Khushwant Singh,
Chief Editor, YOJANA,
Old Secretariat,
Delhi 8.

S. A. DANGE,

Bh-12

4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi

September 18, 1957

Dear Panditji,

Shri S.A.Dange has asked me to convey to you that he is immensely thankful to you for your letter of the 12th inst., enclosing the note on 'Gramdan in Koraput', as well as the other note prepared for the Mysore Conference.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

K.G. Sriwastava

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Pandit Patankar,
Akhil Bharat Sarwa Seva Sangh,
Jeypore (Koraput)
Orissa.

Bh-10

A. DANGE,

4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi

September 21, 1957

Shri N.Srinivasa Murty, B.A.,
Hony. Secretary,
Khaddar Co-operative Society Ltd.,
Lansdowne Buildings,
MYSORE.

Dear Friend,

Shri S.A.Dange is extremely thankful to you for the invitation to visit your Society when he comes there to attend the Sarva Seva Sangh Conference. He regrets, however, that due to very urgent preoccupations, he could not proceed to Mysore and hence he is not able to visit your Society due to cancellation of the programme.

Shri Dange has asked me to convey to you his good wishes for the continuous progress of your Co-operative Society, which has to its credit a service of over thirty years.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

K.G.

(K.G.Sriwastava)

Bh...

AKHIL BHARAT SARWA SEVA SANGH

JEYPORE (Koraput)
(ORISSA)

Ref. No. 1050/57-0.6.

Date, SEPTEMBER 25, 19 57.

Dear Shri Sriwastavaji,

Please refer to your letter dated 18th September, '57 on behalf of Shri S.A.Dange. Today I am forwarding another note on 'Development of Gramdan villages on Cooperative Basis'. I believe, Shri Dange will find it of some interest.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Pandit Patankar

(Pandit Patankar).

Encl. 1

Shri K.G.Sriwastava,
c/o Shri S.A.Dange,
Member of the Lok Sabha,
4 Ashok Road, New Delhi.

M. Acharya
10/5
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DEVELOPMENT OF GRAMDAN VILLAGES ON
CO-OPERATIVE LINES

- oOo -

1.

During his talk to the Development Officers of Koraput on 18th June, 1957, the Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa suggested "that (In case of Gramdan villages) each Gramdan village or a group of two or three Gramdan villages will form a Co-operative Farming Society for planning the crop farming of the village and for taking credit for agricultural operations in the nature of seeds, manure and grain for meeting consumption needs during the Agricultural season and for payment to labourers.... that this farming society will be affiliated as a member of the Grain Gola Society in the Panchayat area and will take lump credit and redistribute it to its members"

Credit and
Gramdan villa-
ges.

Accordingly the Co-operative Department of the Government of Orissa, suggested a scheme for 'Development of the Gramdan villages on Co-operative basis'. The major theme of the scheme could be broadly covered by the following points:

State Govt.
Scheme on Co-
op. Farming
Societies.

- i) that all the cultivated land of the village or villages covered by the Society should become the property of the Farming Society concerned;
- ii) that no individual rights will be recognised;
- iii) that the persons employed in cultivation work whether members or otherwise will be paid the prevailing wages as per the decisions of the executive;
- iv) that all the produce will belong to the Society and after deducting the cost of wages, taxes and loans, reserves for unforeseen losses, and common good fund, the balance will be distributed as Work Bonus on man day labour basis;
- v) that the Society will undertake organization or management of other ancillary activities such as cottage and village industries;
- vi) that the Society will operate one Consumers' Co-operative Store in the village;
- vii) that the Sarwa Seva Sangh should man the manager required to assist the managing committee who will be paid a subsistence allowance for first three years in a sliding scale;
- viii) that some initial financial assistance for construction of Buildings (such as farm houses, granaries, cattle sheds, stores etc) may be given by the Govt.

2.
Present day
limitations.

Broadly speaking this scheme proposes a 'Collective Co-operative Farming System'. On the back-ground of Gramdams, where no individual ownership of land exists collective farming appears to be only logical mode of co-operative farm operations. However, certain factors stand in the way of realisation of this otherwise logical conclusion.

Foremost amongst these factors will be the facts of the situation and next will come the ideological reservations. Here we are not very much concerned with the later. The former consists of the following:

- i) Though under Gramdan, individual ownership on land ceases to exist, it actually means in practice alienation of land has been disallowed. Old individual holdings continue to exist subject to only such modifications as are found necessary in the context of fresh demands of previous landless. As a result inequalities in land holdings persist.
- ii) Even where land distribution does not show much of inequalities, near-primitive methods in farm operations, in this area, have led the costs of production to invariably exceed income, and that too rather disproportionately. Under such circumstances any drastic switchover from the prevalent methods of self employed type-farm-labour-organization, will lead either to disruption of the organization in its economic aspects or to a highhanded undemocratic managerial super-domination. Moreover, the psychological inhibitions of the Adivasi to such a major switchover in employment pattern would be far less congenial to the institutional growth of such a new form of organization.

3.
Dove-tailing
the
programme.

However, an element of gradualness coupled with consistency will definitely pave way for new forms of co-operative organization quite congenial to the temperament and norms of the indigenous soil concerned.. In order to bring in that consistency, the agency working here to foster proper co-operative spirit amongst the members of the community, should accept the following two cardinal points as a sheet anchor of their future policies during the transitional period.

- i) Progressive equalisation of land holdings with due regard to the tenets of consolidation; and
- ii) Progressive social accumulation of fixed and working capital, thereby progressively linking up production with co-operative resources.

it need not be so computed. On the contrary if at all it is pre-motivated by any objective, it is/ the by realisation of Gramdan idea, which in the first place is out to substitute individual ownership of resources for production by communal one; and secondly which views the future of this village community in the shape of a 'Gram Kutumb' (Village Family).

It would be a travesty of truth to regard that in Gramdan areas these objectives have been realised by mere declaration of Gramdans. Only a way has been paved and opportunities for generating a favourable atmosphere have been provided.

- 5. Even in Gramdan areas, the age-old notions of individual ownership, it appears, can be overcome by progressively bringing in equalisation in holdings. This may be achieved either way. By scaling down or by scaling up. It depends on the availability of untapped developmental potential on one hand and of the organizational potential on the other. It would be rather risky to believe that mere exemption of land from Commodity Market, unaccompanied by conditions of farm operations essentially on family labour will arrest the trend towards polarisation. Especially when Gramdan is not a universal fact (countrywide) and when it has not touched other sectors of the economy.

Community ownership & 'Gram Kutumb'

There need not be two opinions regarding item No. 3(ii). Unless and until the 'Gram Kutumb' succeeds in providing certain essential services and a bare minimum of securities, it shall not take roots in the minds of people at any rate. Emotional responses do count in this context. But under a long range perspective, it has its obvious limitations. The Society must find some institutional solution. Though not for today at any rate tomorrow. for

It appears, then, that the two points mentioned above 3 (i) & 3 (ii) shall form the sheet anchor of the future policies in Gramdan areas in Koraput.

The State and the Experiment in Co-op. Organization.

- 6. It would be wrong, however, to underestimate the importance of State Policies of unqualified support to these two cardinal points. This is true not only with regard to Gramdan areas but more so in case of present non-Gramdan areas in this District.

Instances after instances could be quoted which will underline the self-contradictory policies pursued at present by the District administration, which are, though unawaredly, cutting at the very roots of healthy co-operative movement in this District. Unless Government Policies and Programmes are sufficiently guaranteed against such self-contradictory approach, no tangible results could be expected out of any herculean efforts put in by whatsoever agencies - whether Govt. or non-Government.

Attempt at

- 7.

It is, therefore

villages out side these blocks but within the District, be marked out as areas for a 'Pilot Project for Community Development on Co-operative basis'. A Special Officer for Co-operative Organisation, of the rank of District Development Officer, he/ Appointed to handle all development operations for such areas. He shall be assisted by another District Co-operative Officer, who will be working, with the District Development Agency for co-operative organisation in non-pilot project areas.

The project period could be marked from 3 to 5 years. Progress of the project will be evaluated in the context of those two cardinal points as mentioned in 3 (i) & 3(ii) and its impact on productive forces in general.

As persuasion will be the only method followed to build the organisation, it would be seen that the tenets of voluntaryism are not violated. Beginnings could be made with such Gramdan - pockets where more favourable conditions prevail.

It has always been seen that most of the land development aspects require investment in the form of human labour. Koraput viewed alongwith its inhabitant - the Adivasi, can hardly become an exception to this contention. However, it so happens that the small cultivator or the newly settled landless, who generally possesses this labour investment potential on a grand scale, is not brought forth in the field by paying sufficient regard to his difficulties. As a result he is always crushed under the wheel of diminishing returns. /ni It is therefore obligatory on those who intend tapping this labour potential, to make available all such services to him which will induce him to put in more effort in so improving his lot, that in course of time such extra weightage in his favour will not be deemed necessary. If /borrowing capacity for developmental /his purposes is increased through a system of subsidised crop loans, it is believed that he will succeed quite rapidly in climbing the social and economic ladder.

New approach to reaching the 'last man'.

The propriety of such a proposition obviously, will stand questioned, when Government have earmarked liberal Grants specially for the Scheduled Areas. True: When grants are available why work out an intricate mechanism of loans and subsidised loans?

But the experience of last two years in the field has sufficiently brought forth one fact that Grants Programme fails to tap the initiative of the Adivasi on the lines of Community Development Principles. Grants in such cases could be utilised to provide certain Social Services. But in the productive field a new approach is inevitable.

8. In order to stimulate and foster favourable atmosphere on such lines a Sarvodaya Fund (Land holdings equalisation fund) will be instituted to direct and regulate the land development programmes and policies aimed at eradicating the existing disparities

'Sarvodaya Fund'

Bh-8

or by scaling up the existing small holdings through reclamation etc (In case of Koraput it must be noted that there is a huge potential of reclaimable land yet untapped).

The fund shall regulate the developmental policies on these lines more or less, by operating through the mechanism of loan subsidy on one hand and development cess on other (as the case may be). It shall operate for a limited period of 3 to 4 years in favour of the present day less-well-off, but on a progressively sliding scale. In a way it shall revitalise his borrowing capacity with a view to augment his effort-investment directed towards land development.

The cess-pool of this fund can be, in other words, the Sampattidan effort on the part of the comparatively better off people from the village.

Other sources of income for this fund will be the net income on 'Community Lands' earmarked under Gramdan Distribution. Contributions from the State Co-operative Agency, Endowments from Funds and Organizations like Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and Sarwa Seva Sangh, shall form other sources to augment this fund.

The Fund shall be a Statutory Entity and shall have a suitable Managing Committee which shall help further its objectives.

Conditional benefits.

The benefits of this fund shall be made available only to such individuals or group of individuals who have -

- a) i) joined a Village Co-operative (as elaborated under paragraph (9)); and
- ii) who have undertaken a target land development programme on more or less self-employment basis so as to realise near about conditions of land holdings equalisation, under a strict time schedule;
- b) i) or to such Village Co-operatives which have already worked out equalisation in land holdings.

9.

Service Co-operatives.

This Fund shall operate in deep liaison with the Village Co-operative Societies which are conceived on more or less similar lines as 'Service Co-operatives'. Some of its salient features are given below. These should be regarded as tentative suggestions:

- 1) 70 to 75% of the people of the village can come forward and form such a society under following conditions. (This percentage has been suggested to offer a fair play to voluntarism on one hand and to avoid dangers of obstructionist strategy on the part of a few, on the other).

ii) This society shall be vested with the rights of permanent ownership of all the land of its members.

iii) No member shall be liable to hold more than that much share of land which he can cultivate by his family labour - whether in that village or outside.

Debt re-payment body.

iv) All landless in that village shall be invited to join the society and shall have a share of land from the surplus pool.

v) All previous debts of the working members of this society shall stand transferred in the name of society. Accordingly re-payment of previous borrowings, reconciliation of debts etc. will be the responsibility of the society.

Credit and Marketing.

vi) The society shall jointly arrange for the credit requirements of its members, and as such shall have first claims on the standing crops towards recovery of the advanced amounts. It shall also arrange for the Marketing and Supply operations in favour of its members.

vii) Members of the Society would be at liberty to cultivate part of their land jointly and part individually if they so desire.

Farming operations.

viii) The Society on its own may undertake farming operations under following situations:

a) Where land development involves long term investment and where benefits of such development will not, automatically be distributed to all;

b) Where lands allotted to individual members are not managed and operated by those individual members properly or neglected altogether;

c) Where newly reclaimed land cannot be profitably cultivated on individual basis.

Other functions.

ix) The Society shall arrange for the essential technical assistance to modernise the production processes of its members.

x) The Society shall progressively ensure minimum standards of cultivation on the plots of individual members.

Membership.

xi) All adults above the age of 18 shall be the members of this Society.

xii) Membership of this Society will be of two types:

b) Candidate Member, such persons who have remained aloof and not relinquished their ownerships rights in land, but who are prepared to accept the Family Labour Farming condition and to surrender their surplus land to the Common Pool under a mutually agreed rental. (The number of such members cannot be more than 25% of the total number).

xii) Both the members shall receive all the services and benefits organised by the Society without any discrimination. But these two categories wherever they exist, shall form two separate constituencies for voting in the Managing or Executive Committee. Each constituency having representation strictly on the basis of percentage of their respective strength. (At no time there can be more than 25% of the members on Managing Committee elected by the constituency of the Candidate Members).

xiii) Membership should not be withdrawable at least for the first 5 to 7 years.

Managing Committee.

xiv) The Managing or Executive Committee shall consist of 5 to 7 members. (It is desirable that provisions should be made for the retirement of the members of the managing committee by rotation to ensure continuity in policy).

Capital Resources.

xv) The Society shall raise its working capital. To ensure this, share may be fixed at the value of Rs. 30 (where the member is unable to pay the amount at a stretch, it may be spread over a period of 2 years divided in easy instalments. The poorest can seek assistance from the Sarvodaya Fund).

xvi) The Borrowing power of the Society will be fixed up as a multiple of the paid up share capital or in relation to the net assets of the Society; and loans could be raised against standing or anticipated crops.

10. It should be noted here that all the three propositions namely (i) A co-ordinated pilot project programme; (ii) Institution of Land Holdings Equalisation Fund and (iii) the Gramdan village Co-operatives; are made by specially keeping in view the Koraput conditions. They should receive consideration only in that context. Last year's work in Koraput has vividly brought forth the necessity of direct Government participation. Failure in mobilising productive forces through Grant approach has led us to pin our hopes in a Fund as suggested under the land holding equalisation programme. It is, actually an attempt to ensure against blind land developmental policies. The last proposition on Co-operative form of organization also, has emerged in the wake of a fresh awareness of the necessity of mobilising

These are after all suggestions meant to react to day-to-day problems. That way they are put forth with a conscious apology to the ideal picture of Sarvodaya order.

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A Note prepared by a group of workers engaged in Gramdan work in Moraput, who have keenly felt since last few months the necessity of introducing Co-operative Forms in the follow-up Organization.

J E Y P O R E

SEPTEMBER 18, 1957.

4 Ashok Road,
New Delhi

September 30, 1957

Dear Panditji,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th. I acknowledge herewith receipt of the note on "Development of Gramdan Villages on Co-operative Basis" which you have sent for Shri Dange. I am placing these papers before him on his return.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

K.C. Sriwastava
(K.C. Sriwastava)

Pandit Patankar,
Akhil Bharat Sarwa Seva Sangh,
JEYPORE (Koraput), Orissa.

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CO-OPERATIVE UNION FOR KORAPUT GRAMDAN VILLAGE

Co-operative structure for Gramdan Villages.

After taking into consideration the special social conditions in Koraput it is suggested that, instead of forming multipurpose Co-operative Societies on regional or geographical basis, a multipurpose society should be formed for each group of 10 to 15 Gramdan hamlets or villages. The head of each family in these villages will be a member of such a co-operative society. Each member should contribute a share capital of Rs. 5/- each. As a general principle each multipurpose society should comprise between 100 to 200 families, 100 being the minimum and 200, the maximum limit.

For this to be done the co-operative department will have to allow the Gramdan villages to form such societies exclusively for themselves.

Apex Organisation Koraput Dist. Co-operative Union.

All such multipurpose co-operative societies in Koraput District should be organised into an apex organisation called the Koraput District Co-operative Union. Each primary society should act as a member society of this Organisation and contribute Rs. 100/- towards its share capital.

The State and the Union.

Such a District Co-operative Union may be recognised by the co-operative department. The Union should be allowed to function as an agency for the credit and marketing activity of these primary multipurpose societies. The Union should also independently take up the marketing activity in the interest of these multipurpose societies.

Resources.

The State Co-operative Bank for Orissa, should directly finance the activity of this Union.

As a beginning one lakh rupees would be collected as a share capital of the District Co-operative Union.

Rupees one or two lakhs more could be collected from sympathiser members from Koraput District, Orissa State or from outside. These members will not have a right to receive dividends.

Endowment
Fund.

The Gandhi Memorial Fund, New Delhi, would be requested to make an endowment of Rs. one lakh towards the capital of the District Co-operative Union. Thus the total capital raised from various sources should be between Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs.

State & Central
Contribution.

The Orissa State Government or the Central Government may be requested to contribute rupees 2 lakhs as the guarantee fund for the activities of the Union.

The State Co-operative Bank for Orissa through its branch acting for Koraput District should finance to the extent of Rs. 40 lakhs for rural credit and marketing activities of the Gramdan villages of the Koraput district. Rupees 10 lakhs in the first year, rupees 20-25 lakhs in the 2nd year and rupees 40 lakhs in the 3rd year.

Management.

Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh would act as a sponsoring body for the first five years. There should be an executive body of the co-operative union set up in consultation with the Orissa State Government, the financing agency, the co-operative department, the Sarva Seva Sangh and the general body of the co-operative union. This body should act as a Board of Directors for 3 to 5 years after which the whole situation may be reviewed and final decision be taken regarding any necessary alterations in the organisational structure of the co-operative union;- whether the co-operative union should be dissolved and whether smaller unions directly financed by the District Co-operative Bank be thought of.

Co-operative
Development
Agency.

The construction and development activity such as irrigation, soil conservation, land reclamation, develop-

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ment of forests, new colonisation, construction of wells, tanks, schools and other public buildings, etc. should be conducted by an independent and separate District Co-operative Organisation to be created as early as possible.

These two organisations, the District Co-operative Union and the District Construction and Development Association, should co-ordinate their activities and help each other. But from the point of view of business it has been thought better to have two independent organisations.

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A note prepared in consultation with eminent Co-operators of India, and submitted to the Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa, personally, during the course of his visit to Koraput accompanied by the CPNES Committee of the Planning Commission, Government of India, on 16th June, 1957.

Sd/ A.W.Sahasrabudhe
SECRETARY
AKHIL BHARAT SARVA SEVA SANGH
KORAPUT.